

Natural features, consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;

Geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation; and

Natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation, or natural beauty.

*Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, or *World Heritage Committee*, means the Committee established by Article 8 of the Convention and assisted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It is composed of 21 nations participating in the Convention, and is responsible for implementing the Convention at the international level. Countries represented on the Committee are elected by participating nations and serve for three sessions of the UNESCO General Conference (six years). The Committee establishes criteria which properties must satisfy for inclusion on the World Heritage List, sets policy and procedures, and approves properties for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

*World Heritage Convention*, or *Convention*, means the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, ratified by the U.S. Senate on October 26, 1973.

*World Heritage List*, means the List established by Article 11 of the Convention which includes those cultural and natural properties judged to possess outstanding universal value for mankind.

*UNESCO*, means the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which provides staff support for the Convention and its implementation.

*Assistant Secretary*, means the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Department of the Interior, or the designee authorized to carry out the Assistant Secretary's responsibilities.

*Department*, means the U.S. Department of the Interior.

*Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage*, or *Panel*, means the Panel consisting of representatives from the Office of the Assistant Secretary, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the Department of the Interior; the President's Council on Environmental Quality; the Smithsonian Institution; the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; the Department of Commerce; and the Department of State.

*Owner*, means the individual(s) or organization(s) of record that own private land that is being nominated for World Heritage status, or the head of the public agency, or subordinate to whom such authority has been delegated, responsible for administering public land that is being nominated for World Heritage status.

*Owner concurrence*, means the concurrence of all owners of any property interest that is part of the World Heritage nomination.

[47 FR 23397, May 27, 1982, as amended at 62 FR 30235, June 3, 1997]

### § 73.5 Authority.

The policies and procedures contained herein are based on the authority of the Secretary of the Interior under title IV of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-515; 94 Stat. 3000; 16 U.S.C. 470a-1, a-2) which directs the Secretary to ensure and direct U.S. participation in the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, approved by the U.S. Senate on October 26, 1973, in cooperation with the Secretary of State, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

### § 73.7 World Heritage Nomination process.

(a) *Overview*. The Assistant Secretary periodically nominates properties which appear to be of outstanding universal value to the World Heritage Committee on behalf of the U.S. The initial identification of properties for nomination, and subsequent preparation, evaluation, and approval of U.S. nominations for properties so identified is an annual process (January–December) which is initiated through a FEDERAL REGISTER notice that includes

the indicative inventory of potential future U.S. World Heritage nominations and requests recommendations from interested public and private sources. The Assistant Secretary, working in cooperation with the Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage, may select a limited number of proposed nominations from the properties on the indicative inventory. A detailed nomination document is prepared for each property identified as a proposed nomination. The Panel reviews the accuracy and completeness of the draft nominations, and makes recommendations to the Assistant Secretary. If approved, the Assistant Secretary transmits the U.S. nominations, through the Department of State, to UNESCO for review and approval by the World Heritage Committee during the following year.

(b) *Identification*—(1) *Requirements*. In order for a U.S. property to be considered for possible nomination to the World Heritage List, it must satisfy the following legislative requirements in addition to satisfying one or more of the World Heritage criteria (§ 73.9):

(i) The property must have previously been determined to be of national significance (16 U.S.C. 470a-1). For the purposes of these rules, “national significance,” refers to properties designated as National Historic Landmarks (36 CFR part 65) or National Natural Landmarks (36 CFR part 62) by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the 1935 Historic Sites Act (Pub. L. 74-292; 49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), or areas of national significance established by the Congress of the U.S. or by Presidential proclamation under the Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C. 433);

(ii) The property’s owner(s) must concur in writing to the nomination (16 U.S.C. 470a-1). In the case of properties owned or controlled by Federal, State, and/or local governments, a letter from the owner(s) would demonstrate concurrence. In the case of properties owned or controlled by private parties, the protection agreement outlined in § 73.13(c) would demonstrate concurrence. Any owner must concur before his/her property may be included within the World Heritage nomination. For example, concurrence from the respon-

sible management official for Federal property indicates concurrence for the management unit, but does not indicate concurrence of any non-Federal property interest located within its boundaries. Concurrence of any non-Federal property interest will be sought if that property interest is determined to be integral to the entire property’s outstanding universal values. To be included within the World Heritage nomination, the owner of the non-Federal property interest would indicate concurrence by fulfilling the protection requirement outlined in § 73.13(c); and

(iii) The nomination document must include evidence of such legal protections as may be necessary to ensure the preservation of the property and its environment (16 U.S.C. 470a-1). The protection requirements for public and private properties are identified in § 73.13.

(2) *Process Initiation*. The Assistant Secretary, through the National Park Service (NPS), publishes a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER in January of each year initiating the annual U.S. World Heritage nomination process. Among other things, this notice:

(i) Sets forth the annual schedule and procedures for identifying proposed U.S. nominations to the World Heritage List, including specific deadlines for receipt of suggestions and comments, and for preparing and approving nomination documents for properties so identified;

(ii) Includes the indicative inventory of potential future U.S. nominations to the World Heritage List, and solicits recommendations on properties on the inventory which should be nominated that year, or suggestions of additional properties that should be considered for inclusion on the inventory.

(iii) Identifies any special requirements that properties must satisfy to be considered for possible nomination.

(3) *Inventory*. The National Park Service compiles and maintains an indicative inventory of cultural and natural properties located within the U.S. that, based on preliminary examination, appear to qualify for World Heritage status and that may be considered for nomination to the World Heritage List. The inventory is a tentative list

of properties that the U.S. may nominate at some point in the future. Inclusion of a property on the inventory does not confer World Heritage status on it, but merely indicates that a property may be further examined for possible nomination. Properties included on this inventory are drawn from suggestions received from any interested party and from the Department's own sources. The inventory is used as the basis for selecting future U.S. nominations, and provides a comparative framework within which the outstanding universal value of a property may be judged. Proposed nominations are selected from among the potential future nominations included on the inventory. Any agency, organization, or individual may recommend additional properties, with accompanying documentation, that should be considered for inclusion on the inventory. Except in exceptional circumstances, a property must be listed on the indicative inventory before it can be considered for nomination. The Assistant Secretary, in cooperation with the Panel and other sources as appropriate, determines whether the recommended property should be included on the inventory. If approved for inclusion on the inventory, the property will be listed when the inventory is next published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The Assistant Secretary transmits a copy of the inventory of potential future U.S. World Heritage nominations, including documentation on each property's location and significance, to the World Heritage Committee for use in its evaluation of nominations, as requested by Article 11(1) of the Convention.

(4) *Selection of Proposed Nominations.* After the January notice's comment period has expired, the National Park Service compiles all suggestions and comments received. Using the recommendations received and working in cooperation with the Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage, the Assistant Secretary may identify properties as proposed U.S. nominations for a given year. In addition to how well the property satisfies the World Heritage criteria (§73.9) and the legislative requirements outlined in §73(b)(i), con-

siderations in the selection of proposed nominations may include:

- (i) How well the particular type of property (i.e., theme or region) is already represented on the World Heritage List;
- (ii) The balance between cultural and natural properties already included on the List and those currently under consideration;
- (iii) The opportunities afforded by the property for public visitation, interpretation, and education;
- (iv) Potential threats to the property's integrity or its current state of preservation; and
- (v) Other relevant factors, including public interest and awareness of the property.

Selection of a property as a proposed nomination indicates that it appears to qualify for World Heritage status and that a detailed nomination document will be prepared for the property. This document serves as the basis for making the decision to nominate the property to the World Heritage Committee (§73.7(e)).

(c) *Notification.* Following decisions on the proposed U.S. nominations, the Assistant Secretary publishes the results in the FEDERAL REGISTER. If properties are identified as proposed nominations, the Assistant Secretary notifies the following parties in writing:

- (1) The owner(s) of lands or interests of land that are to be included in the nomination; and
- (2) The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the U.S. Senate.

The notice advises the recipients of the proposed action, references these rules, and sets forth the process that will be followed in preparing the nominations. The NPS prepares and issues a press release on the proposed nominations.

(d) *Nomination Preparation.* Following selection of proposed nomination(s), the NPS coordinates arrangements for the preparation of a detailed nomination document for each property. The owner(s) of the proposed property, in cooperation with NPS, is responsible

for preparing draft nomination documents and for gathering necessary documentation in support of the nomination. The NPS oversees the nomination preparation process, and ensures that the procedural guidelines set forth by the World Heritage Committee and contained in these rules are satisfied. Each nomination is prepared according to the format and requirements established by the World Heritage Committee, and according to the schedule set forth in the annual January FEDERAL REGISTER notice (§ 73.7(b)(2)). In preparing nominations, consideration is given to including within their boundaries only those areas that appear to be of outstanding universal value to mankind.

(e) *Nomination Evaluation.* Following completion of the draft nomination document(s), the NPS coordinates their review and evaluation. The NPS distributes copies to all representatives on the Panel, with a request for comments regarding the adequacy of the nomination document and the significance of the property being nominated. The NPS compiles the recommendations and comments received from representatives on the Panel.

(f) *Nomination.* The Assistant Secretary, based on his/her evaluation and the recommendations of the Panel, nominates properties which appear to possess outstanding universal value to the World Heritage Committee on behalf of the U.S. The Assistant Secretary transmits the nomination(s), through the Department of State, to UNESCO. The nomination(s) should be transmitted so that they are received by UNESCO prior to the January 1 deadline for any given year.

(g) *Notification.* When the nomination has been approved, as in paragraph (f) of this section, the Assistant Secretary publishes notice of this action in the FEDERAL REGISTER. In addition, the Assistant Secretary notifies the following parties, in writing, of the nomination(s):

(i) The owner(s) of land or interests in land that are included in the nomination; and

(ii) The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Committee on

Energy and Natural Resources of the U.S. Senate.

The NPS prepares and issues a press release on the U.S. World Heritage nomination(s).

#### § 73.9 World Heritage criteria.

The World Heritage Committee uses the following criteria to evaluate the World Heritage potential of cultural and natural properties nominated to it:

(a) *Criteria for the Inclusion of Cultural Properties on the World Heritage List.* (1) A monument, group of buildings or site—as defined in Article I of the Convention—which is nominated for inclusion in the World Heritage List will be considered to be of outstanding universal value for the purposes of the Convention when the Committee finds that it meets one or more of the following criteria *and* the test of authenticity. Each property nominated should therefore:

(i) Represent a unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of the creative genius; or

(ii) Have exerted great influence, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental arts or townplanning and landscaping; or

(iii) Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a civilization which has disappeared; or

(iv) Be an outstanding example of a type of structure which illustrates a significant stage in history; or

(v) Be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement which is representative of a culture and which has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change; or

(vi) Be directly or tangibly associated with events or with ideas or beliefs of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considered that this criterion should justify inclusion in the List only in exceptional circumstances or in conjunction with other criteria); and

In addition, the property must meet the test of authenticity in design, materials, workmanship, or setting.

(2) The following additional factors will be kept in mind by the Committee in deciding on the eligibility of a cultural property for inclusion on the List: